

# PRESS RELEASE

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## For Immediate Release

October 10, 2006

## Contact Person

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Assistant U.S. Attorney

Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Marcel D. Stevens, DOB 3-13-70, of Little Chute, Wisconsin, was sentenced today by Chief U.S. District Judge Barbara B. Crabb to two years in prison and ordered to pay restitution of \$276,000. Stevens previously pleaded guilty to bank fraud.

Stevens, doing business as Viroqua Ford Mercury, devised a scheme to defraud the Fortress Bank of Westby, Wisconsin by selling 24 vehicles that were pledged as collateral under a floor plan loan. After selling the cars, Stevens failed to provide the net proceeds of those sales, which exceeded \$250,000, to Fortress Bank.

The charge against Stevens was the result of an investigation conducted by the La Crosse Resident Agency of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Grant C. Johnson.

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